

**Montana Department of Military Affairs
Disaster & Emergency Services Division
State Emergency Coordination Center**

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Situation Report for August 30, 2003 (issued @ 14:00 hrs.)

Wildfires of 2003

Attention * - New information shown in today's report displayed in ***Bold Italics*** type.

I. Background Information:

On 8/07/03, Governor Judy Martz signed Executive Order # 16-03 in which she declared a statewide disaster thereby enabling mobilization of state resources (including the Montana National Guard) should they be needed to help protect the life, health and/or property of Montana's citizens. This declaration supplements Executive Order # 14-03, a statewide emergency declaration issued on 7/18/03. The State Emergency Coordination Center has been activated since 7/18/03.

II. Current Montana Fire Situation: August 29, 2003 (2200)

A. Large Fires

Northern Rockies Preparedness Level = 5

National Preparedness Level = 5

NORTHERN ROCKIES DAILY SUMMARY

Northwest Area Command (Mann) is managing the following large fires:

- *Blackfoot Lake Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Mortier) – 5,432 acres, 15% contained, 19 miles E of Kalispell.*
- *Wedge Canyon – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Paul) – 47,973 acres, 72% contained, 42 miles N of Columbia Falls.*
- *Middle Fork Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 2,755 acres, 0% contained, 5 miles E of West Glacier.*
- *Crazy Horse – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Chrisman) – 10,500 acres, 60% contained, 10 miles NE of St. Ignatius.*
- *Little Salmon Creek Complex – Fire Use Management Team (Rath). This 43,071 acre lightning caused Wildland Fire Use complex is located 47 miles SE of Kalispell.*
- *Robert – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 47,948 acres, 70% contained, 8 miles N of Columbia Falls.*
- *Rampage Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 9,421 acres, 0% contained, 15 miles SE of West Glacier.*
- *Trapper Creek Complex – 18,630 acres, 65% contained, 45 statute miles NE of Kalispell.*
- *High – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Weldon) - 120 acres, 0% contained, 23 miles NE of Seeley Lake. **No new information reported***

Central Montana Area Command (Rounsaville) is managing the following fires:

- *Lincoln Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Studebaker) – 36,670 acres, 64% contained, 10 miles W of Lincoln.*
- *Rathbone – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Walker) – 3,010 acres, 50% contained, 17 miles N of West Yellowstone.*
- *Winslow – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Kearney) – 13,438 acres, 50% contained, 5*

miles SW of Lakeview.

- *Cathedral Peak – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Humphrey) – 2,778 acres, 20% contained, 10 miles S of Nye.*
- *Burnt Ridge Sheep Camp Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Larsen) – 3,102 acres, 47% contained, 12 miles SE of Neihart. **No new information reported***
- *Rough Draw Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Oltrogge) – 3,080 acres, 85% contained, 5 miles S of Livingston.*
- *East Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Gardner) – 23,500 acres, 85% contained, 10 miles E of Fishing Bridge Junction, Yellowstone National Park.*

Missoula Area Command (Ribar) is managing the following fires:

- *Fish Creek Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Stam) – 30,856 acres, 35% contained, 24 miles W of Missoula.*
- *Black Mountain 2 – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Gelobter) – 7,061 acres, 80% contained, 9 miles W of Missoula.*
- *Cherry Creek Complex – 4,008 acres, 85% contained, 12 miles SE of Thompson Falls.*
- *Mineral/Primm – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Bennett) – 22,542 acres, 70% contained, 19 miles NE of Missoula. Transfer of command to Type 2 Incident Management Team (Broyles) will take place 8/31.*
- *Cooney Ridge – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Sandman) – 24,500 acres, 55% contained, 11 miles E of Florence. Type 2 Incident Management Team (Kechter) will assume command 8/30 at 0600.*
- *Gold 1 – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Philbin) – 8,296 acres, 80% contained, 9 miles NE of Corvallis. Type 2 Incident Management Team (Swope) will assume command 8/30 at 0700.*

Beaver Lake Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Frye) – 24,577 acres, 55% contained, 19 miles SW of Missoula. Type 2 Incident Management Team (Brunner) will assume command 8/31.

3 Mile – 3,000 acres, 80% contained, 9 miles NW of Glendive.

B. Initial Attack *Light initial attack - 14 new fires 4,979 acres*

C. State Forecast For Montana

STATE FORECAST FOR MONTANA
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE GREAT FALLS MT
500 AM MDT SAT AUG 30 2003

WEST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE
Today - Areas Of Smoke North...Otherwise Mostly Sunny. Highs 75 To 85.
Tonight - Mostly Clear. Lows 38 To 48.
Sunday - Mostly Sunny. Highs 78 To 88.

CENTRAL MONTANA
Today - Sunny. Highs In The Upper 60s To Upper 70s.
Tonight - Clear. Lows In The Upper 30s To Mid 40s.
Sunday - Mostly Sunny. Highs In The Mid 70s To Mid 80s.

SOUTHWEST MONTANA
Today - Sunny North. Mostly Cloudy South...With Isolated Showers Far South This Morning. Becoming Mostly Sunny South This Afternoon. Highs In The Mid 60s To Mid 70s.
Tonight - Mostly Clear. Lows In The Mid 30s To Mid 40s.
Sunday - Mostly Sunny. Highs In The Mid 70s To Mid 80s.
EASTERN AND SOUTHERN MONTANA

*Today - Mostly Cloudy With A Chance Of Showers Extreme South. Mostly Sunny Elsewhere.
 Highs In The Upper 60s South To Around 80 North.
 Tonight - Mostly Clear. Lows In The 40s.
 Sunday - Mostly Sunny. Highs 75 To 85.*

III. Summary of Actions being taken by Local Government Officials:

The following local jurisdictions have made the following declarations:

Cascade County	Emergency Declaration (Box Canyon/Long Mtn.)	7/15/03
Garfield County	Disaster Declaration (Missouri Breaks)	7/15/03
Beaverhead County	Emergency Resolution (multiple fires)	7/17/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration (Big Creek)	7/20/03
Flathead County	Emergency Declaration (Wedge Canyon)	7/21/03
Sanders County	Resolution (Stage II Fire Restrictions)	7/29/03
Fallon County	Resolution (Stage I Fire Restrictions)	8/04/03
CSKT Flathead	Resolution (Tribal/Forest/Range Closure)	8/04/03
Blaine County	Emergency Declaration (150 acre fire)	8/06/03
Park County	Emergency Declaration (Rough Draw Fire)	8/11/03
Sweet Grass County	Disaster Declaration – (Hobble [Diamond] Fire)	8/12/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Musselshell County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Granite County	Disaster Declaration	8/15/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Stillwater County	Emergency Declaration	8/16/03
Sanders County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Lewis and Clark County	Emergency Declaration	8/15/03
Judith Basin County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Missoula County	Emergency Declaration	8/10/03
Carbon County	Emergency Declaration	8/10/03
Dawson County	Emergency Declaration	8/27/03

The US Small Business Administration has issued a Declaration of Economic Injury Disaster #9W74 for the following counties:

Flathead	Teton	Mineral
Glacier	Broadwater	Missoula
Lake	Cascade	Pondera
Lewis& Clark	Chouteau	Powell
Lincoln	Jefferson	Toole
Sanders	Meagher	

IV. - Summary of State Activities and Resources Committed:

State and National Guard Assistance:

Current Montana National Guard Resources			
Montana Army Guard		EQUIPMENT	Montana Air Guard
NG SOLDIERS	AIRCRAFT MODULES	ARMY & AIR GUARD EQUIPMENT	NG AIRMEN
	3 UH-60S	68 HMMVs	
		3 HEMTTs (Fuelers)	
		6 1 ¼ TRAILER	
		18 M-35 2 ½ TON TRUCKS	
		5 M1009 TRUCK	
		4 HEMTT (Wrecker)	

		14 Pick Up	
		2 VANS	
		1 7-TON TRUCK	
		1 25' FLATBED TRAILER	
		1 M939 SERIES 5T CARGO	
		3 CUCV	
		1 One Ton	
442 Soldiers Assigned	3 Aircraft Modules	127 HVY Equipment	159 Airmen Assigned

Status of State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC)

- Montana DES is providing support to local governments through the State Emergency Coordination Center in Helena. The SECC is currently operating at Activation Level III. Level III operations will include a full staff 0700-1900 daily.
- Currently DES Agency Representatives are assigned to:
Northwest Area Command
Missoula Area Command
Central Command

The State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) will continue to monitor conditions and is prepared to provide 24-hour incident support to local governments. After office hours (i.e., 1900-0700) support is available through the DES Duty Officer who may be reached at (406) 841-3911.

V. FEMA Grants:

FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grants have been approved for:

- Missouri Breaks Complex
- Wedge Canyon
- Robert
- Hobble
- Cherry Creek
- Fires burning in portions of Missoula, Ravalli and Mineral Counties
- Lincoln Complex
- Flathead County Zone

VI. Fire Restrictions, Closures and Evacuations:

For the latest fire restrictions:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/fireseason/2003/MTmain.htm>

For the latest on smoke management and air quality Updates:

<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/index.asp>

For the latest closures and evacuations:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations_road_closures

For detailed information on specific fires or priorities:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/detailed_sit.htm

http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/mac2003/mac_priorities.doc